

REMARKS

Claims 73 through 98 are presently pending. In a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed November 19, 2003 (Paper No. 17), the claims were objected to under 37 CFR 1.121 for noted informalities. These claims have been resubmitted with the proper status identifier.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicants submit that all of the claims now present are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

- 5 If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (214) 969-4669 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

- 10 No additional fee is believed to be required with this response. If any applicable fee or refund has been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to the deposit account of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., No. 01-0657.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date: December 19, 2003
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